



FEBRUARY & MARCH—AWARENESS OBSERVANCES

February was [Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month](#). The Center for Women & Families is doing great prevention work with teens in our community. Check out [Pact in Action](#)

March is Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Kentucky and has been [proclaimed by Governor Beshear](#).

NOTE: Teens are not the only ones affected by dating violence. [Kentucky is now the only state](#) that does not offer some type of civil protections to victims of dating violence. If you are any age and in an abusive dating relationship **but you have never been married, do not have a child in common or have not lived together:** You

do not qualify for a Protection Order. How effective are Protection Orders? [Click here](#) to see.



Headlines related to sexual assault have been in the news often, particularly in regard to [athletics](#) and [the military](#). We are experiencing an increase in voices calling for change, thanks in large part to advocates for change such as attorney [Susan Burke](#) and the documentary [The Invisible War](#). Both came to Louisville in 2013.

We can all do something to help end violence. Bystander intervention programs like [Men Can Stop Rape](#) and [Green Dot](#) work against the “[bystander effect](#)” by teaching safe interventions for situations posing a danger to someone.

UPDATE: EQUAL VOICES WOMEN’S SUMMIT—MARCH 7TH

It’s “**Last Call**” for the 2014 Women’s Summit!

Our opening speaker will be Carolyn Miller-Cooper, Executive Director of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission. She will explain the Commission’s work and how it is relevant to women.



Morning breakouts include

Barriers and Bridges, for those who work with immigrant, refugee and limited English populations. **De-Escalation—Working with Families** for anyone who works with groups, the public or families and **Lessons Learned** from the Kentucky Women’s Health Registry.

Interested in **Micro-Business**? A morning session by Syvoskia Bray Pope, MicroBusiness Coordinator, Community Services and Revitalization, who was recently [featured on WAVE3](#).

The afternoon, will offer a choice between a workshop on the strategies behind the **Seven Secrets of Successful Women**, a glimpse of the life of a domestic violence victim by walking **In Her Shoes**, or experiencing **Why Art Is Good For Us**.

Mid-day . . . Bring Your Denim

Lunch with plenty of time for networking and a visit the Denim Room to paint your denim.

Anchal, FiberWorks and Beaded Treasures, non-profits who use Microbusiness models to fund services for women will be on hand. The vendors will have products available and can talk to you about how their business model benefits the women they serve.

NO Registration Fee but [Registration](#) is required. **Lunch will be Provided to Attendees who register in advance.**

Chris Owens
Director

Whether it is a desire to push for social change or a response to the increase in incident reports, more and more domestic violence and sexual assault incidents are in the headlines with a gush of social media responses trailing beneath them.

As we issue calls for awareness, we must acknowledge that awareness is a step toward *action*. It is action that will end violence. Let’s vow not to be a powerless bystander.

Next we can extend our awareness to choosing our “heroes” carefully, holding them to high standards & remembering “heroes” just like all of us, have feet of clay. No matter how powerful or privileged, there is no entitlement to do harm.